

Peake, Harold, and Fleure, Herbert John. *Apes and Men and Hunters and Artists*. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press, 1927. Pp. 188 and 154. 5s. each.

THESE two books are the first of a series which is being brought out by the Clarendon Press under the general title, "The Corridors of Time." *Apes and Men* traces the history of life from the Lower Palaeozoic to the end of Middle Palaeolithic times, while *Hunters and Artists* carries on the story to the close of the Mesolithic.

In spite of the great experience and erudition of the authors, one cannot overcome the impression that they have not been entirely successful in this attempt to review the results of the most recent research in prehistoric anthropology and archaeology—that they have, in fact, fallen between two stools. The size of the books, and the explanations given of many quite elementary points show clearly that they are intended for readers without any previous knowledge of the subject. At the same time the authors have included in a very condensed form a great deal of material that must be unintelligible to the general public. For instance, reference is made to the terraces of the Somme and of the Thames, but no explanation is given of the formation of river terraces, although this is fundamental to Palaeolithic chronology. Another matter in which the authors have not been successful in combining brevity with lucidity is their description of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic implements, and in the case of the Chellean, at least, the drawings given do not make up for the deficiencies of the text. The result is that these books, in spite of the wide knowledge which has gone to make them, leave a confused impression on the mind. The authors have tried to pack too much information, too many points of view, into a very limited space. In an abbreviated popular manual of this kind selection and elimination are essential if the main outlines are to stand out clearly, and should the authors object that this would make their survey of the subject less complete, the answer must be that such works are not used by the specialist, nor even by the trained amateur.

It is only fair to add that *Hunters and Artists* is less open to criticism in this respect than *Apes and Men*, probably because a very much shorter time-period is dealt with in the same space.

In matters of detail one regrets the perpetuation of two venerable errors that might well disappear from our text-books. The authors state that the ripple-flaking of the Solutrean is produced by pressure; as a matter of experiment, the only flaking which can be obtained by pressure on a flint flake is a minute nibbling of the edge. They also reproduce the often-repeated statement that the flatness of the Azilian harpoons is determined by the material from which they are made, it being impossible to cut a round shaft in red-deer antler, owing to the thinness of the cortex. Dr. de Saint-Pri re has demonstrated, again by experiment, that in this respect there is no difference between red-deer antler and reindeer antler, and that it is as easy to cut a round shaft in the one as in the other.

These books are very attractively produced, and if they are disappointing, that is because the reputation of the authors had led us to expect something very much better than the usual popular manual.

D. A. E. GARROD.